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ALL SCHOOL-83 CHILDREN

ORANJESTAD—The possibility exists for the parents of school-going children to receive aid from the government for the coming school year. The aid will include: free transportation, free books for Colegio Arubano and reduction in school fees. To become eligible for the above mentioned aid, parents must submit a petition to the island's Department of Education, not later than August 1.

ARUBA'S FIRST ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY VOLUME 37 Ad Astra Per Aspera

THURSDAY, JUNE 20 1985,

THIEF DISARMED POLICEMAN



SAN NICOLAS—The owner of the Springfield supermarket in San Nicolas was awakened 3 a.m. Tuesday by the burglar alarm in his establishment. He immediately called the police and when they arrived he went to the supermarket accompanied by the police; one of the policemen entered the

building and was confronted with a man who he identified as H.T., age 25. The burglar had groceries and a cigar box with some coins. H.T. tried to make a getaway. When grabbed by a policeman he took his gun. The other policeman fired a warning shot, but H.T. continued running and entered

the village. A search was started and all the locations where the fugitive usually hangs out were closely watched. However it was not until 10 a.m. when the police decided to storm a house on Sabstraat that H.T. was caught and arrested. The weapon was found some time later.

Deputy Henriquez Says: FIFTEEN PERCENT SALARY REDUCTION WILL NOT AFFECT PRIVATE SECTOR

ORANJESTAD—Although the Central Government is working overtime to push through the 15o/o general salary reduction law on July 1, Aruba Deputy of finance Milton Henriquez said on television Monday night that the salary cut will not affect the private sector in Aruba. Mr. Henriquez said that International Monetary Fund experts on the island last week to make economy-healing recommendations pointed out that the planned 15 percent salary reduction for all workers in the Netherlands Antilles as of July 1, is not applicable for the private sector in Aruba. He also said that no public servants in Aruba will be affected by the 15o/o cut. Aruba

government workers were subjected to a 7 3/4 o/o cut on April 1, and the deputy explained that the Central Government workers on the island will receive the same 7 3/4 o/o cut, but that neither group will be affected by the government's mandated 15 percent. Deputy Henriquez added that in the coming months some 500 Aruba government civil servants will be laid off as part of the recommendations of the IMF recommendations to bail the island out of its financial-economic problems. Those affected by the lay off will be DOW, WEB, I-DEFRE and Institute of Culture employees. Experts of the I.M.F. made

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ORANJESTAD—Recently the Aruba Concorde Hotel organized a motivation course for its employees. The course named "Professional Food Service" was attended by Captains, Barboys, Busboys, Waiters etc. A total of 98 employees participated in the course which started on March 26 and ended on May 31. In picture: The employees who participated in the course after they received their certificate from the hotel management, headed by the Manager, Mr. Hernan Gehr.

GOVERNMENT RELEASED MEASURES TO THE PRESS

WILLEMSTAD—Last week the Central Government released the much discussed and unpopular measures: 1-Persons earning Fls. 1000 per month will have to pay 15 o/o based on their yearly earnings 2. If the remittance causes the earnings to drop below fls. 1000, the earnings will be classified in the fls. 100 per month bracket.

3. The percentage can be increased or reduced to a maximum of 25 percent, after consulting the Island economic Council and the G.O. commission. 4. The remittance is applicable for everybody: those on the service of employers, those with inde-

Cont. on page 2



EDITOR'S CORNER

IN DEFENSE OF OUR OWN

In view of the current and increasing unemployment it is advisable that the island government pay strict attention to the local labor market when giving local companies permission to immigrate management and/or staff employees or specialists from overseas. If it becomes absolutely necessary to employ a foreign specialist or expert the government should enforce a law providing that the company involved employ a local as a counter part to work hand-in-hand with the foreign specialist or expert, and by doing so learn the job so that the local would be capable of taking over when the foreign employee's permit expires. Presently there are many former Lago and contractor employees with management qualifications and others with mechanical and technical skill and experience who we are sure are capable of filling responsible positions in any construction firm or industry on the island or any investing company in the future. Although we are in favor of certain changes in the present labor laws (for instance the dismissal law) which would make them more attractive for investors, it should be of paramount importance that the government give preference to the procurement of means to primarily guarantee the existence of the local labor force.

GOVERNMENT RELEASED...

Cont. from front page

pendent trades and pensioners. 5. An Island government can ask for a specific increase for its island on the emittance on earnings, and or will not cause any discrepancy between island public workers and those employed by the Central Government. 6. All remittances made between October 1, 1984 and June 6, 1985 will be automatically deducted from the 150/o remitted now. 7. For those who have already remitted 150/o or more during the period from January 1, 1983 to September 30, 1984, can ask the Minister of Economic Affairs for total exoneration of the 150/o. 8. There will be no compensation for increases in the cost of living. 9. All house rent will be reduced by 150/o pas of July 1. This percentage could be increased to a maximum of 250/o, based on the rent being paid on

April 1, 1985. 10. Businesses and establishments must cut their dividends by 150/o - this percentage could be increased to 250/o. 11. Interest on existing loans for mortgages on houses and personal loans must be reduced to 150/o this could be increased by 250/o interest. 12. The period on loans regulated in the loans law 1964 will be extended by 1/3 part and the quotas will be adjusted accordingly. 13. Tariffs of independent trades will be reduced by 15 o/o, this reductions could be increased by 250/o. 14. The list of products of first necessity will be amplified, the prices will be discounted to adjust to the 15 o/o salary reduction. 15. Employers and employees are free to negotiate for higher salaries. For instance for reasons of good performance, for years of service or collec-

Village Talk



by WILLY

A fella tell Willy dat dis toim he ain't hurtin up he head wid de politishun s dem. He say dat dey does mek yuh get enemies an' when yuh look dey skinnin' dey teeth wid each other.

A lady tell Willy dat it had a big garbage collector close by she house an' all de neighbors dem used to throw dey basuru in it now all of a sudden dey gone wid it. She say dat she hear dat de guvment ain't got no money to pay for it an' now de peeple throwin de basuru on de grong.

A fella tell Willy dat he friends dem tell he to stick along to see ef something goin turn up but he say dat it look loik he goin have to pull ouk before heself turn dong.

Well dis toim yes de delegashun wha' gone to Holland really havin' a ball. Dey been away long enuff to tour de whole ah Europe.

A fella tell Willy dat he start rearin' some chicken to eat, now he say dat he wife tell he dat she aint pickin off no chicken feeders to break up she fingernails.

A fella tell Willy dat fo' de weekend he bounce up on some fellas on a paranda an' dey was drin-kin ginger beer.

WORLD BOXING CONVENTION WILL PROBABLY BE HELD IN ARUBA

ORANJESTAD—Mr. Alberto Aleman Jr. coordinator of the International World Boxing Association has informed the Aruba Boxing Commission that there is a possibility that the association's next convention will be held in Aruba during the month of September this

tive contracts, or individuals who retire after July 1, 1985. Establishments are obligated to give the Department of Economic Affairs a report on what they saved on account of the 150/o reduction and how this will be incorporated in the traffic or prices. The Department of Economic Affairs will determine if the report is acceptable.

17. The tariffs of water and energy will be reduced. It is being deliberated with the island government to discount the 150/o salary reduction in the water and energy tariffs. 18. Severance pay will be based on the earnings of June 30, 1985. 19. In the event of the closure of the establishment all regulations will be based on the earnings before July 1, 1985. 20. Establishments that refine oil who are closing are obligated to make their lay-off arrangements based on the salary before July 1, 1975, and must return the 150/o remitted to their employees.

The Aruba Boxing Commission and the Aruba Concorde Hotel & Casino were highly commended for promoting international boxing in Aruba. If the convention is held in Aruba it will mean enormous promotion for the island, not only in the boxing world but also for tourism. It was also previously announced that World Boxing Council will hold a

convention at the Aruba Concorde Hotel & Casino in October next year. The Aruba Boxing Commission has also received an invitation from Mr. Jose Salcedo, General Secretary of the Central American and Caribbean Boxing Federation (FECAR BOX) to attend the federations convention which will be held in July or August in Santo Domingo.

CAMPANJA EVANGELISTICA

Bini Skucha E Bon Nobo

Lugar : Iglesia Evangelica "Bon Nobo", pabao di voetbalveld Universal, Pos Chiquito.

Dia : Juni 20, Diahuebes 7.30 p.m.

Juni 21, Diabiernes 7.30 p.m.

Juni 22, Diasabra 7.30 p.m.

Juni 23, Diadomingo 10 a.m. y 7 p.m.



Evangelista: Pastor CLEVIS WHITE

Bini cerca mi tur cu ta cansa, y cargá, y lo mi duna boso descanso. (Pala-branan di Jesus. — Mateo 11:28)

IGLESIA ALIANSA EVANGELICA - "BON NOBO"
Pos Chiquito - Aruba.
(Pabao di voetbalveld Universal)

THE DUTCH PRESS ON STATUS APARTE

Following is a translation of an editorial concerning the forthcoming status aparte of Aruba in the Dutch newspaper NRC-Handelsblad. The struggle for autonomy on the island of Aruba which started more than forty years ago will be crowned with success on January 1, 1986 if the status Aparte is formally and legally established. It is the conviction of the Dutch government and the Lower House of parliament that it is better that the points of friction between Aruba and Curacao be cut loose. It is hoped that the antagonists, once they are separated, will be able to reach a certain measure of harmony. Connected to status aparte is independence on January 1 1996. The Aruban leader Betico Croes had to accept this double deal at a round table conference in The Hague two years ago. During the chamber debate it was evident that

in Aruba interest for complete independence was on the decline. Croes made furious attempts to present the political situation in Aruba and even the developments in the region as pions to strengthen his arguments for independence, but Lubbers and De Koning definitely rejected those arguments. An indefinite status aparte is out of the question, they said. Such a condition would result in each island wanting special direct ties with Holland, which would mean the complete splintering of the constellation. Holland has ties with the Antilles as a whole, but not with each island apart, said de Koning. In fact each island could come out of the combination, but then there would be no longer room for a semi-independent construction, at least not for an indefinite period. Such reasoning suggests certain questions. The Antilles as a

whole with a national identity does not exist. The English-speaking windward islands, about 900 kilometers distant from Curacao were always administrated in Willemstad, but that does not mean that a country was created. Besides each island has its own self-determination rights, that was decided some years ago. Why shouldn't the islands now opt for a wider measure of autonomy, but with lasting ties with Holland, if they want to? It is understandable that from a political and admi-

nistrative viewpoint Holland would be happy with such a development. It seems that it would be wiser for the Antilles to remain together, but on fundamental and political grounds to delay status aparte any longer is going a bit too far. It is expected that at the sounding out conference, some time before the independence date of January 1 1986, it will calmly be evaluated what will be the position of Aruba. The strict attitude of Holland at the moment is not intended to discourage A-

Aruba from making preparations for independence. Neither are the other islands encouraged to hamper the status aparte procedure. By the secession of Aruba from the Netherlands Antilles constellation there are risky aspects. After the abrupt closure of the Lago refinery the island is in a financial slump. The internal relations are on a decline. Holland is justly cautiously conscious of its responsibility, at least on paper, for the develop-

Cont. on page 5

Deputy Henriquez says:...

Cont. from front page

an economic study of Aruba and presented recommendations in a report last week which has not yet been published by the island government. But Deputy Henriquez revealed that I.M.F. recommendations include measures to increase revenues and curb expen-

ditures. Other sources say that the I.M.F. recommendations comprise increases in gasoline excise tax of 50 cents a liter, more import duties, and reductions in subsidies of the government to public enterprises, including public transportation and housing.

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AMBASSADOR TO CARACAS

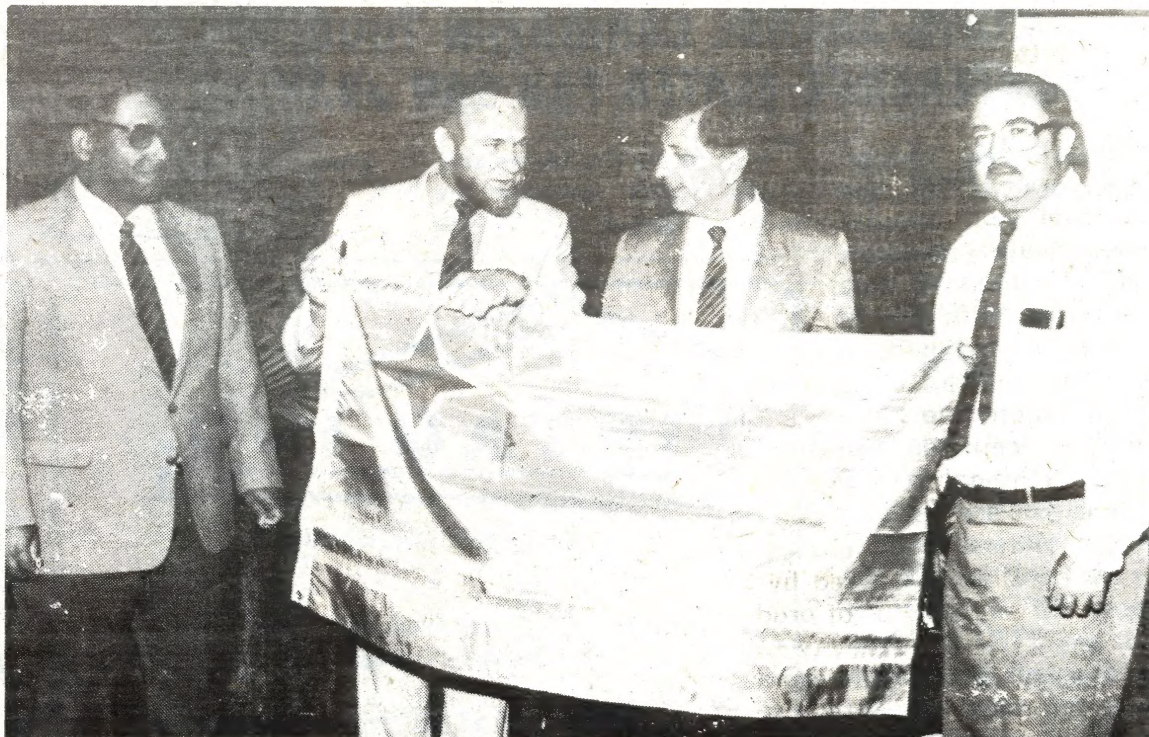


Mr. Emile van Lennep

WILLEMSTAD—The Dutch ambassador for special affairs, Jonkheer Mr. Emile van Lennep, will go to Caracas this week to coordinate a possible meeting between the government of Venezuela, Holland and the Netherlands Antilles, to discuss the future

of the Shell refinery in Curacao. There is a possibility that the Dutch Prime Minister, Mr. Ruud

Lubbers will attend the meeting and discuss the matter with President Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela.



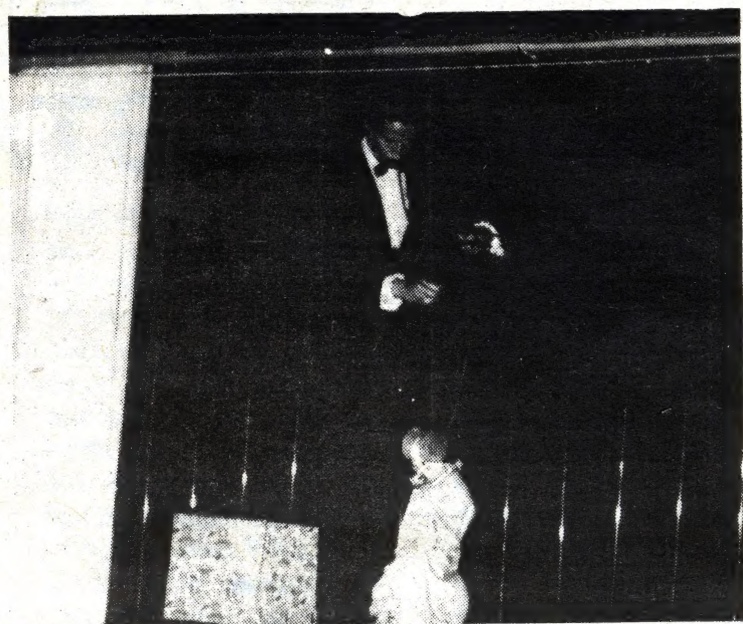
ORANJESTAD—The General Advisor to the Island Government, Betico Croes, bade farewell to Mr. Antonio Cavallaro, the former president of Lago, last week. Mr. Cavallaro left Aruba to take up another Exxon assignment overseas. The General Advisor thanked Mr. Cavallaro on behalf of the government for his cooperation during his term as president of the refinery. Mr. Cavallaro expressed his gratitude for the hospitality he enjoyed on the island and lamented having to leave and said that he is convinced that the Aruba people will continue to work for the development of the island. Mr. Betico Croes gave Mr. Cavallaro an Aruban flag, a pin and a coat of arms of the island. Also present were Mr. H. Coffie and Deputy Milton Henriquez.

ARUBA CONCORDE HOTEL STAGES NEW CRAZY HORSE SHOW

PALM BEACH—Last week the Aruba Concorde Hotel & Casino presented the debut of its all new Crazy Horse Show in the Arubisque nightclub. The show is produced by the famous Joe Cavalier of Las Vegas, featuring Linda Bardow and the fabulous Cavalier Dancers with a galaxy of brilliant European acts, never before seen in the Americas. The show is highlighted by its professional Parisian dancers, and an exotic new lighting system which creates an entirely different effect on the stage, the beautiful illuminations give the audience the idea that the girls are intermittently dressed and undressed right there on the stage. The decor is also out of this world and presents a continuous line of changes in background scenery, one of the scenes is a gigantic aquarium. The super musical accompaniment is in itself one of the outstanding features of the fabulous show.

Topping off the show is the famous ventriloquist Mr. Barclay Shaw with his entertaining almost real-life comical puppets. The Crazy Horse Revue de Paris is indeed too fabulous for words to describe. For an evening of first class entertainment, a visit to Concorde's Arubisque nightclub is highly recommendable.

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NINTH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN TOURISM CONFERENCE SLATED FOR SAN JUAN, P.R.

The Caribbean Tourism Association (CTA) and the Caribbean Tourism research and Development Centre (CTRC) have announced that the ninth Annual Caribbean Tourism Conference (CTC-9) will be held from September 9-11 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Delegates to CTC 9, the largest and most important tourism event of the year, will include the Boards of Directors of CTA and CTZ, CTA's allied members drawn from the entire travel industry and CTA's chapter members. Since it is widely felt that travel to the Caribbean has turned around in the major marketplaces of the region, the theme chosen for CTC-9 is "Capitalizing on a Recognized Market". The thrust of this year's Conference is to focus the attention of the Caribbean and the travel industry on those factors and trends which will impact travel.

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which will impact travel
Cont. on page 5



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TOURISM... Cont. from page 4

and tourism in a recovering market environment with a view to formula-

ting a plan of action for the Caribbean's future; This year's program is uni-

quely structured to ensure the greatest interchange of ideas and opinions from all segments of the industry. It will reflect aspects of recent



ORANJESTAD—Last week a delegation of American Airlines were guests at the Aruba Concorde Hotel during a dinner given by the sales department of the hotel. Mr. Marco Antonio Wix was the host. In picture: Mr. Oslin Toppenberg, general manager of American Airlines in the Antilles, Miss Inneke Lampe, supervisor of American Airlines in Aruba, Mr. Berny Desena, regional manager of American Airlines and Mr. Marco Antonio Wix, director of sales of Aruba Concorde Hotel.

market research, planning in the public and private sectors and marketing of the product. The program format will include a number of workshops designed to promote discussion on such topics as "Planning Mutually Beneficial Solutions to Air Transportation Issues", "Planning for more effective Tourism development" and "New Approaches for Successful Marketing in Europe". A lively social program in charming Puerto Rico will round out the CTC-9 program. "It is appropriate that we are meeting this year in Puerto Rico"

re a new and positive approach to tourism has turned around our host country's tourism industry", said Director General Audrey Palmer Hawks. Delegates will have the opportunity to experience the new Puerto Rico Tourism environment and visit their many refurbished properties. The Conference work sessions will be held at El Centro, the San Juan Convention Center. The hotel which will accommodate the 500 plus delegates are the Condado Beach, La Concha, the Dupont Plaza

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THE DUTCH PRESS...

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ment on the island. Therefore it would be better for the other islands to slowly continue the trend toward inevitable independence. Discussions on that issue has stagnated throughout the years due to the controversy between Aruba and Cura-

cao. If Holland after a number of years does not approach the independence of Aruba too dogmatically, there may still be room for a solid cooperation, whereby the role of Holland will gradually diminish.

NRC—Handelsblad.



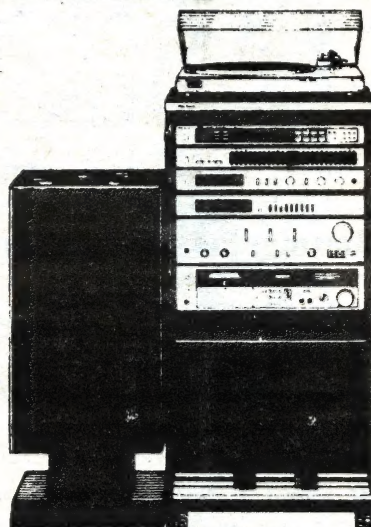
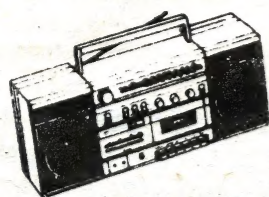
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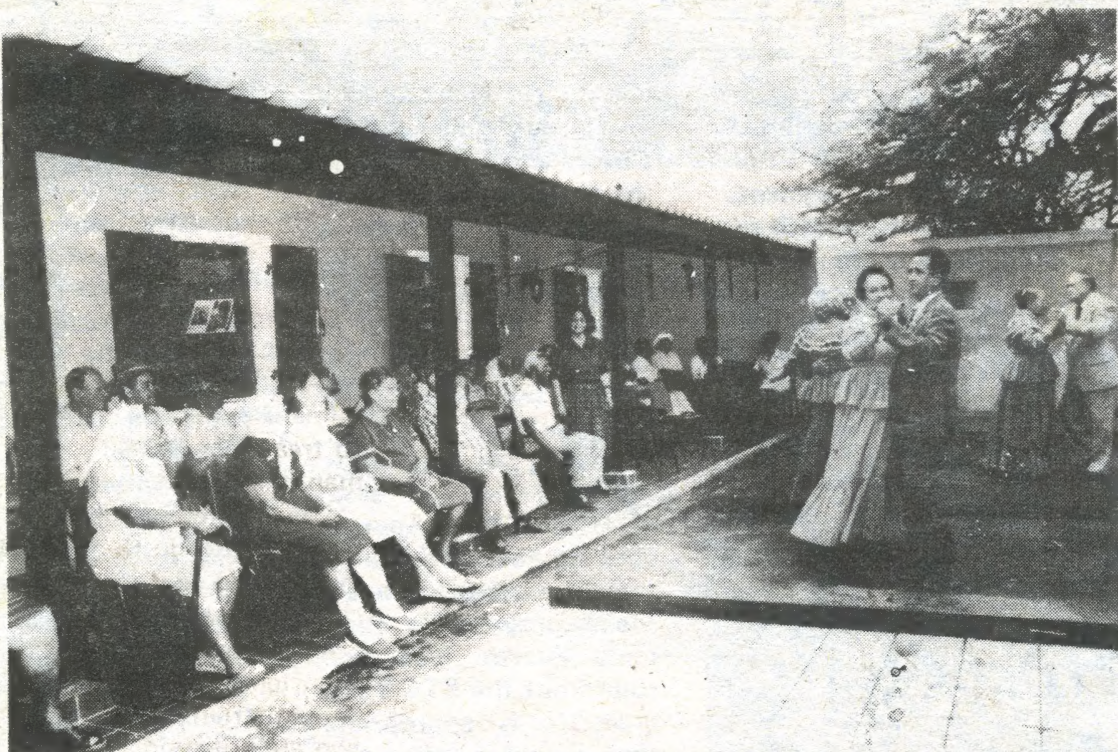
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ORANJESTAD—The Woman's Club of Aruba held a cultural morning for the inmates of the Maristella Home for the Aged Friday morning in the Fort Zoutman where the Aruba Historic Museum is also located. The Flor di Palisia dance group provided entertainment and local dainties were served to the senior citizens.

KLM'S PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1984/1985

The preliminary results for KLM's financial year ended March 31, 1985 are as follows: Revenue over fiscal 1984/1985 was dfl. 5.6 billion, compared to Dfl. 5.0 billion in fiscal 1983/1984 an increase of 12.0%! Net income for fiscal 1984/85 is Dfl. 290 million, as compared to Dfl. 103 million for the

previous financial year. It is not necessary to deduct corporate tax from the 1984/85 net income. Definite net income is not expected to deviate significantly. The final figures will be announced on June 20, 1985. The annual report will be published on July 24, 1985.

CARIBBEAN TOURISM...

Cont. from page 5

and the Condado Plaza. For more information, contact the Caribbean Tourism Association, 20 East 46 street, New York N.Y. 10017. Phone (212) 682-0435. Or the Carib-

bean Tourism Research and Development Centre Mer Vue, Marine Gardens Christ Church, Barbados W.I. Phone: (809) 427-5242.

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A PREMININARY STUDY OF HUMANISM

What is Humanism? What effect does it have in the world today? To come closer to home, what effect is it having upon me and my family? Humanism is affecting drastically Christianity and the sad fact

is that many do not realize it. Humanism is subtle and makes the changes in a way not felt, such as in religion and Christianity. Especially important is our study for those families having children in

school. Humanism has become a dominant force in the educational process for some time now. Those families need to know how Humanism is attacking the moral and Christian ideals they are trying to teach their children in influencing them and their value judgments. As Dr. Harold J. Sala Says in his GUIDELINES FOR LIVING, No. 2021, "Humanism is touching virtually every aspect of life—education, government, morality, social

values, television and entertainment, law, ethics and medicine. Almost every sphere of life today is being influenced by humanism in one way or another. At the same time the vast majority of Christians around the world today are virtually ignorant that their faith is being undermined by its subtle influences, and many don't want to be alerted to its dangers. I hope you are not one of them.

"One of the reasons that

humanism catches us so unaware is that the terms used to describe it is so disarming. After all, people reason, if being 'human' is humanism, don't we need to treat each other as human beings? But in the final analysis being humans has about to do with humanism as did Adolph Hitler's final solution. Again the term 'humanism' is often confused with humanitarianism, and the two are not synonymous

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AEROBICS AT SAN NICOLAS SPORTS CENTER

SAN NICOLAS—The San Nicolas Sports Center announces to its members and all interested persons that starting on July 2 and on every Tuesday and Thursday night from 7 to 8 aerobics lessons will be given in the center

under the direction of Rudy Carti, a certified physical education instructor and professional physio-therapist. Men, women and children who want to lose weight may attend the lessons. Participants will receive va-

rious fringe benefits: a discount card to shop in sport shops and a diet plan for those who want to eat less, but a balanced diet. For more information call Mr. Rudy Carti, phone 21777 or San Nicolas Sports Center phone 48103

ARUBAN YOUTHS TO STUDY IN VENEZUELA

ORANJESTAD—Due to the results of an arrangement between the Go-

vernment of Venezuela and the Antillean Government for Antillean youth to study in Venezuela, the first group of students left Sunday for Caracas. The first group to make use of the opportunity will study "Hotel manage-

ment" and the "organization and coordination" of events. Other courses on the vocational field are: mechanic, electrician, and construction. Courses will start on July 15. For information: Phone 31220, extension 114.



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A PRELIMINARY STUDY...

Cont. from page 7

No religion or philosophy in all history has had the humanitarian impact on society as has Christianity. "Notice, if you would that the vast majority of great educational institutions and hospitals in the world were originally founded by Christian men and women to alleviate the suffering of humanity. The very nature and focus of humanism (which is on the individual) tends to decrease the focus of attention on others, especially when personal sacrifice is demanded to meet their needs. "If humanism is not simply being kind, or consider

rate or generous, or humanitarian, just what is it? Webster's Dictionary defines it as a doctrine, attitude, or way of life centered on human interests or values; especially a philosophy that asserts the dignity and worth of man and his capacity for self realization through reason and that often rejects supernaturalism; the doctrine that man's obligations are limited to and dependent alone on, man and human relations. Now here is my definition: Humanism is a religion focusing on man as the measure of all things rejecting all absolutes and

embracing as a subjective reality, truth, which is perceived to be true by the individual mind. Humanism uniformly rejects the very foundation of Biblical truth—the existence of God, the creation of our world and man by the direct act of God, the supernatural including the inspiration of the Holy-Spirit in rendering the Bible authoritative and without human error in the original manuscripts and the fact that man is responsible.

"HUMANISM IS A RELIGION. Just as the word 'man' is at the heart of humanism, so is God at the heart of the Judoo-Christian tradition and both cannot be right. While humanism is atheistic

it is far more than atheism which has been garbed in more acceptable clothing. It is nothing short of a religion with man as the center of worship, one which denies the existence of a Supreme Being or any accountability to him. Recognized by the United States supreme Court as a religion

humanism is far more subtle and in my opinion far more dangerous than blatant atheism which simply denies the existence of a God; it is a substitute no God religion putting faith in humanity rather than in God Himself". The Humanism's bible is

Cont. on page 9

RESULTS OF LIONS CLUB LOTTERY



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SENT MEMORADUM TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

The Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Aruba sent the following memorandum to the Central Government on June 5, in connection with the proposed, measures to im-

pose a 15o/o general reduction of salaries on July 1. Forced wage reduction not necessary for Aruba's private sector. A. Present situation: Curacao has a structurally hi-

gh unemployment while most sectors of the economy of Curacao are in decline. The island does not have a single growth sector. Tourism is in bad shape, almost all hotels operate on a loss and no new hotel has been built in 12 years. 55o/o of the island government budget is covered by income out of the financial off-shore taxes. This income will decrease drastically in the

near future. St. Maarten has a successful tourist industry with Barbados and Aruba the most popular destinations for US tourists and enjoys steady growth because of continued new investment activity through the years. St. Maarten could be self-supporting if it had the proper efficient government instruments for taxation and collection of taxes. No unemployment. Aruba

has an incidental high employment due to the closing of Lago, but comparable to St. Maarten a healthy growth in tourism. Acceleration of this growth is possible, due to a very strong marketing position of Aruba. Extremely critical position of Government finances, because of a government budget heavily dependent

Cont. on page 10

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ORANJESTAD—Mr. Th. Donata completed 25 years of government service on June 2, 1985. Mr. Donata is an employee of the Customs Department. Chief Customs Officer Mr. Carlos Goeloe presented the traditional envelope to Mr. Donata in the presence of his wife and colleagues and son.

A PRELIMINARY STUDY...

Cont. from page 8

in two parts—the Humanist Manifesto of 1933 of fifteen statements and af-

ter World War II, which revealed in great depth the human heart and its depravity, in 1973 the se-

cond manifesto was published. The second document went further in its attempt to outline the goals of controlling the world economic system, the environment, and the educational process. Wor-

ld leaders signed the second manifesto along with liberal churchmen and educators. These people represent many countries of the world and the intelligentsia of that world. This brings to mind in closing this preliminary study of Humanism what God thinks of all of this. We read, "Wherefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts unto uncleanness...for that they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." (Rom. 1:24, 25) End.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE...

Cont. from page 9

on high contributions by Lago and Lago employees. Crisis in Government budget clearly visible even before Lago's closing but reorganisation of government finances postponed for political reasons. Government will have to trim employment drastically and reduce expenses on all levels. Laid-off government workers can be reemployed in private sector (tourism) Bonaire and Saba/Statia Limited possibilities for growth in tourism but will remain dependent of budget financing by other islands and Holland (Solidarity fund). B. Proposal of Central government for a 150/o forced wage/salary reduction: The proposal for a forced 150/o reduction in all wages and salaries must serve three goals: 1. Improve balance of payments situation. 2. improve competitive position of the private sector as compared to other islands and countries, competing on the same markets as the Neth. Antilles. 3. improve the government budget. 1. Balance of payments situation: Due to Lago's

closing the inflow of foreign exchange has been substantially reduced and the outflow has to be adjusted accordingly. The loss of purchasing power, resulting from the lay-offs at Lago and other enterprises has automatically reduced the outflow of foreign exchange. The main factors for preventing foreign exchange shortages are: 1/Capital flight - can be kept at a minimum only if holders of capital remain confident that Aruba's private sector will offer good investment opportunities. Measures like the forced 150/o wage and salary reduction proposed, are counterproductive in this respect, because they undermine this confidence. Government intervention in the private sector is always considered as being very negative for the investment climate. 2/overspending by government - must be prevented by taking care that budgets deficits will be financed by foreign exchange loans (from Holland) and not by printing money, which would lead to foreign

exchange shortages very soon. 3/overspending by the public - must be prevented by introducing strict rules for purchasing on credit, which results in outflow of foreign exchange, while the inflow is postponed to the future. 4/the proposed 150/o cut in salaries and wages - if this cut is followed by lowering the prices of goods and services, as planned by the Government, this will mean that Aruba would lower its hotel rates and restaurant prices as well as all other services. For a large percentage these services and the hotels and restaurants of Aruba are paid with foreign exchange, so a reduction will mean a reduction in foreign exchange inflow. Conclusion: the measure of a forced reduction of 150/o for the private sector will have a negative effect on the balance of payments situation and not the positive effect expected by the Central Government. Only prevention of capital flight and rules for limited credit facilities both for government and the consumer will be effective in maintaining a healthy balance of payment. 2. Improve competitive position. Aruba and St. Maarten are the top rated islands for tourism to the Caribbean and the price level does not seem to be a great problem. After the recession of 1980/1982 the US citizen has experienced an increase in spendable income. The

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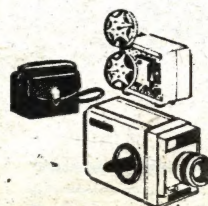
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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE... Cont. from page 10

wage and salary level in Aruba's private sector is not the main problem for new investors in the tourist sector. Some of our social laws—such as the dismissal law—are however. Changes in the minimum wage law and the dismissal law, could lead to improved efficiency in some sectors of our labor force and have a positive effect on investments. For the short term, investments in tourism will remain

by far the most important factor in creating substantial additional employment for Aruba. Other industries may be possible, but the employment factor will be small and the realization will be years away. The 150/o reduction in wages will not mean much for most labour intensive competition. Our minimum wage is approx \$20,-- per day, as compared to \$1,86 for Brasil, \$3,19 for Mexico, \$2,36

for Jamaica and \$4,90 for the Dominican Republic. Our second level minimum wage \$14,80 per day (banks, hotels etc) and third level of \$12,82 (trade and stores) do not come close also.

General Conclusion: Due to the longterm aspects for Curacao. For St. Maarten and Aruba the need for a forced general cut in wages and salaries for the private sector is not necessary. The economy of Aruba can bounce back from the blow of the Lago closing, because of the strong position of its tourist sector and the good prospects for accelerated growth of this sector. Wage and salary corrections are only part of the measures taken and to be taken by the private sector of Aruba to adjust itself to the situation of an economy without Lago. Success of the private sector is not only dependent on the cost levels but also on the market positions and growth opportunities. Corrections in cost elements are not subject to government measures but are being taken constantly and creatively in many varied ways. The private sector must therefore be excluded from the proposed wage and salary cuts and all efforts must be focused on the problems of solving the crisis in the government budget financing.

Private enterprise can be helpful, by creating new investment which result in lower unemployment, releasing the government from some of the welfare payments to be paid to unemployed citizens. New investment also bring in more foreign exchange and increase the tax income for the government. The tourist sector must be made much stronger by introducing the planned Tourist Authority as soon as possible. A solution for the financing of this Authority must be worked out and can maybe be found by agreements to be made between the private sector, the labour union of the tourist workers and the Aruba Government.

In Aruba the private enterprises have already taken the reorganisation measures needed to face the problems of the present crisis situation. For some companies who were completely dependent on Lago, closing was the only solution. Others could reorganize and did creatively. Labour unions of the private sector in Aruba cooperate fully with these necessary reorganisations. No government intervention is needed to keep private enterprise competitive. Conclusion: corrections in private enterprises of Aruba have been taken and will be

taken without intervention by the government. The competitive position of Aruba's private sector will be maintained without government intervention. 3. Improve government budget. Cutting government and semi-government (hospital, schools etc.) wages and salaries will of course be helpful to trim down the government budget. Overstaffing and a higher wage and salary level than in the private sector has caused a crisis situation in Aruba's public sector long before Lago decided to close. The extra millions paid by Lago during 1979-1983 have concealed the real problem; a 100 o/o increase in government spending since 1979. Except for the small group of top government employees, salaries in government are approx 30 to 40 o/o above the present wage and salary levels in the private sector. This is just the other way around as in most countries where the security of a government job has a price and the more vulnerable private sector worker is paid more than somebody with a similar job in government. Also the benefits—100 o/o sickness cost compensation and excellent retirement pay are better for the government employees in our situation. Cutting wages and salaries in the private sector however do not contribute to the government budget. Due to lower tax income the government will get less income if the private sector is forced to reduce wages and salaries where it is not absolutely necessary. Conclusion: The government of Aruba will have to return to the budget level of 1979 and will not be able to do this without a drastic reorganisation. Beside lay-offs and early retirement of a large number of government workers, a further reduction in wages and salaries as well as benefits is in order, especially with a view to the large gap in income between workers in government as compared to workers in the private sector.

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